

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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COME-00 TRSE-00 /077 W

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O 120237Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7192

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 3183

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC: (GIRARD, EUGENE N.S.)

SUBJ: W/W: KIDNAPPING OF EUGENE N.S. GIRARD, FIRST NATIONAL
CITY BANK VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE, PANAMA, CENTRAT AMERICA
END MEXICO.

1. MR. EUGENE N.S. GIRARD, NATIONAL CITY BANK VICE PRESIDENT,
WAS KIDNAPPED BY ARMED MEN AT 7 A.M. FRIDAY. RANSOM PAID AND
MR. GIRARD RELEASED UNHARMED. FAMILY FLOWN TO PANAMA. ALL
WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. UPON LEAVING HOUSE APRIL 11, MR. GIRARD WAS APPROACHED BY
TWO MEN, NEATLY DRESSED, ASKING FOR INFORMATION. IMMEDIATELY
JOINED BY TWO OTHERS, ALL FOUR ARMED WITH .45 CALIBER REVOLVERS
AND HAND GRENADES. WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN WERE AWAKENED AND KEPT
UNDER GUARD. SPOKESMAN FOR KIDNAPPERS SAID THEY WERE
"COMMANDANTES" OF LUCIANO CABANAS, WHO "THOUGH DEAD, LIVES
ON". SAID THEY NEVER TOOK LESS THAN ONE MILLION PESOS, BUT IN
THIS CASE WANTED TWO MILLION DUE TO SIZE OF HOUSE.

3. GIRARD COMPLETELY CONVINCED KIDNAPPERS SELECTED HIM BY
CHANCE, KNOWING HIM NEITHER AS AMERICAN CITIZEN NOR HIGH BANK
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OFFICIAL. GIRARD PERSUADED THE KIDNAPPERS THAT HE WAS RELATIVELY

MINOR OFFICIAL IN NATIONAL CITY BANK, LIVING IN RENTED HOUSE, WITH NO AUTHORITY TO CASH CHECK FOR MORE THAN \$150,000 PESOS. TWO KIDNAPPERS THEN TOOK HIM AND HIS 13-YEAR OLD SON IN BANK CAR, LEAVING TWO MEN TO GUARD WIFE AND OTHER CHILDREN.

4. THOUGH SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF OPENING HOURS, BANK ADMITTED GIRARD AND KIDNAPPERS AND CASHED CHECK WITH NO PROBLEM. ON RETURNING HOME, KIDNAPPERS USED AUTOMOBILE TELEPHONE TO CALL HOUSE TO SAY MONEY OBTAINED AND FOR ALL KIDNAPPERS TO MEET AT PRE-ARRANGED SPOT. KIDNAPPERS ALSO TOOK WIFE'S JEWELRY.

5. GIRARD WAS RELEASED AND IMMEDIATELY SENT FAMILY TO FORMER HOME IN PANAMA. GIRARD LEAVING FOR SINGAPORE TOMORROW, APRIL 12. HE IS QUITE NERVOUS SINCE HE IS AFRAID THAT KIDNAPPERS WILL READ FULL STORY AS IT APPEARS IN PRESS AND BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TRICKED. GIRARD SPENDING THE NIGHT IN EMBASSY RESIDENCE AND HAS BOTH BANK AND EMBASSY GUARDS.

6. FOR PANAMA: GIRARD ASKS THAT EMBASSY INFORM HIS GOOD FRIEND, GENERAL TORREJOS, THAT EVERYTHING IS WELL.

7. DURING WHOLE AFFAIR, KIDNAPPERS TALKED FAR LEFT LINE WITH MANY MENTIONS OF MAOIST PHILOSOPHY. NEVERTHELESS, FIRST INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE KIDNAPPERS ARE COMMON CRIMINALS.

8. EMBASSY AND GIRARD BESIEGED BY TELEPHONE CALLS FROM PRESS. WE SEE NO REASON FOR DEPARTMENT TO HIDE FACT OF KIDNAPPING IF QUERIED, BUT WISH THAT WE NOT VOLUNTEER ANY INFORMATION, AND KEEP USG COMMENTS TO BAREBONES FOR MOMENT.
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